

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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HOUSE PASSES HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN CREDIT CO-SPONSORED BY ORENTLICHER

INDIANAPOLIS – Senate Bill 459, a bill that would make health care insurance more affordable for workers, was passed yesterday by the Indiana House 89-1. State Rep. David Orentlicher (D-Indianapolis) is a co-sponsor of the bill and has been the author of similar bills in the past.

“Health care insurance would be more affordable for employees who do not receive health care coverage at work,” said Orentlicher. “SB 459 takes advantage of existing federal tax incentives to reduce the cost of health care insurance to employees. And it does so at no cost to employers or the state.

“Major business associations report that the number one concern of their members is the rise in health care costs,” said Orentlicher. “Offering this credit will allow employees to save 25-40 percent off the cost of their premiums because they will be able to pay for health care insurance through payroll deduction with “pre-tax” rather than “after-tax” dollars.”

He also noted that as health care costs continue to increase, more and more employers have dropped health care insurance as an employee benefit, and many companies have never offered health care coverage to their workers.

Under the legislation, businesses will receive up to \$2,500 in tax credits for offering and enrolling employees in the plans. Revenues from the state’s insurance premium tax will pay for the tax credits.

The legislation was also recently amended to provide individuals with a deduction from adjusted gross income for student loans accrued during college studies.

Senate Bill 459 will now be considered by a House-Senate conference committee.